

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 60

December 2013

No. 10



Calendar

Fri., Nov. 22	Pick up December <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place; GP Nursery School Craft Fair preview party, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Sat., Dec. 7	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm
Sat., Nov. 23	GP Nursery School Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm	Sun., Dec. 8	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 12 noon–4 pm
Sun., Nov. 24	GP Nursery School Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm	Mon., Dec. 9	Town Council dinner and meeting with District 17 & 18 state representatives, Town Hall, 7:15 pm; Town Council meeting, 7:45 pm (see p 3)
Wed., Nov. 27	No Citizens Assoc. meeting	Tues., Dec. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Nov. 28	Happy Thanksgiving; Happy Hanukkah; No trash pickup	Fri., Dec. 13	31st Annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see pp 3, 5)
Sun., Dec. 1	Art at Penn Place, Ellen Hill (through Jan. 4) (see p 5)	Sat., Dec. 14	Santa Comes to Garrett Park, Town Hall, 2 pm (see p 5)
Mon., Dec. 2	Monthly yard waste collection	Fri., Dec. 20	Pick up January <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place
Fri., Dec. 6	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall, 2–9 pm		

Toronto 1, Garrett Park 0

Drama-wise, Garrett Park's November Town Council meeting compared unfavorably with our neighbors to the north.

Councilmembers did not turn their backs on Mayor Benjamin when he began to speak (his opening remarks expressed gratitude to our veterans, as the meeting fell on Veterans Day).

The Mayor's next statement—an inquiry as to whether there were any presentations by residents—provoked not catcalls and *throw the bum out*, but silence.

There were no action items.

There were no discussion items.

When the Mayor called for Councilmember reports, no one asked why he lied to the Council about smoking crack. Instead, Kacky Chantry described the good work of the Web Site Committee, whose objectives were to provide market research and requirements for upgrading the town Web site to improve the overall online presence and communication experience for the town.

Next steps will be to prepare and announce a request for proposals to solicit bids from potential vendors.

Joanna Welch said her committee is beginning to look into what repairs might need to be done to the Town Hall, and Hans Wegner announced that street repair work will start in April.

The Sidewalks Citizens Advisory Committee has been meeting with neighbors along possible new sidewalk routes. Parking may prove an issue: One person has parking where a sidewalk might be.

Some general discussion of various possible problems in the event of new sidewalks now ensued. What innovative ways of accommodating people who might be affected by them are available?

The Mayor's Announcements failed to produce any language that made people's mouths drop open in disbelief. He mentioned the "increased use of notices on the door of the Post

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Office” and wondered whether we should go back to our “no notices on the door” policy. He also said that people are using Penn Place for events on Saturdays—cookie sales, for example—and that these were good causes. “But do we want to have some rules about access? Should we ask people to get permission?”

The Town Manager now said that the \$10,000 quote we’ve gotten from Gregg for this year’s tree pruning looks reasonable. This work will happen during the next two to three weeks.

Finally, rather than announcing that he is suing all of the members of the council for defamation, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

Margaret Soltan

Sidewalks Committee

The “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) citizen advisory committee has started our work. This committee is addressing the grant that the town received to extend the sidewalks on Kenilworth Avenue and Oxford Street and to replace the sidewalk on Clermont Avenue.

You can read about the project on the town’s Web site, www.garrettpark-md.gov. Links are posted on the home page.

Our charge is to ensure that the ideas and concerns of town residents are heard and presented to the town administration as it manages the SRTS project. We are neither for nor against the project, but aim to represent the full range of resident views and concerns to the town. The Town Council, not the advisory committee, will make all decisions related to the project, from selecting the engineering firm to deciding whether and when to proceed with the construction phase of the project. Our role is to help them make the most informed decisions possible by collecting information, ideas, and concerns.

Our first task is to create a list of priorities that a potential engineering firm must address in the design phase of the project. If you have information, ideas, or concerns about this project that you would like to share with this committee, feel free to e-mail us. Please note that all information shared with individuals on the committee will be shared with the rest of the members of the committee.

Our minutes will be posted on the town Web site.

We have created an e-mail address for the group. Please feel free to e-mail us at garrett-park-sidewalk-advisory-committee-2013@google-groups.com.

Committee members
Lori Conlan, Alison Pearce,
John Mulligan, Kathy Hedge,
Dick Pratt, Dave Almy

Citizen Association News

Save the date! The annual Town Dinner will be on January 25. Mark the date now on your calendars.

Spooky Woods. The CA would like to thank all the ghouls who helped with Spooky Woods. We had a terrific turnout, giving out over 300 glow necklaces. If you have any comments about the event, let us know. Hope to see you next year!

Future events and meetings. We are working on a fall event to highlight the archives. Watch for a notice in the Post Office and a note to the listserv.

Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Michael Lutkenhouse or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2013 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Michael Lutkenhouse.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager’s Notes

December Town Council meeting. The meeting, to be held on Monday, December 9, will be a dinner meeting with our state government representatives. Residents are invited to attend for dessert at 7:15 pm, when you can meet and ask questions of the officials. The Town Council meeting will begin at 7:45 pm.

The Safe Routes to School sidewalk project. The project is moving ahead with the appointment of a citizen advisory committee. That committee will be providing recommendations and guidance on all aspects of the project. The initial phase of the project will be to hire an engineering/design firm to develop a design for the sidewalk routes. I look forward to speaking with those residents along the prospective streets with whom I’ve not yet met.

Fall pruning. The town will begin its fall pruning project later in November. Gregg’s Tree Service will be doing the work and will be removing dead limbs from trees throughout town.

Leaf removal. Just a reminder that we are well into the leaf removal season. Motorists, please use a little extra caution around the huge piles of leaves throughout town. Parents, please be extra mindful of vehicular and bike traffic, and discourage your children from playing in the curbside leaf piles.

Office closure. The Town Office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Holiday gifts. If residents would like to make a holiday gift to the six men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail your check to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to Town of Garrett Park with “Holiday Fund” written as

the memo. Donations are fully tax-deductible. The town will send each contributor an acknowledgment and will see that the fund is properly distributed the week before Christmas.

Holiday collection of trash, recycling, and yard waste. Thanksgiving Day trash collection will be on the following Monday (December 2). Yard waste will be collected only on the first Monday in the coming three months (December 2, January 6, February 3). We return to weekly yard waste collection in March.

January Christmas tree collection. Please put your trees out for collection with the January yard waste on Monday, January 6, if possible. Otherwise put them out as you take them down and town staff will come around and chip them. Please try to have the trees out by the following Monday (January 13). Drying trees are a fire hazard! All Christmas trees collected are recycled.

Large item pickup. The next large item pickup will be on Saturday, January 4.

The town staff wishes everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

Gene Swearingen,
Town Manager



Green Again

Great-grandpa Frank O’Brinski donated money to keep our banner green for this month. We thank him and wish him joy with his growing family.

As of now, we are solvent until the start of April 2014. Anyone else like to join “greening” the Bugle? If so, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer



as a Garrett Park resident, we'd love for you to enjoy a
Free Appetizer

Lunch ✶ Dinner ● Brunch ☉ Happy Hour

NOW OPEN in North Bethesda Market across from Whole Foods.

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Free parking is available daily after 5pm and all day on weekends in our lot off Woodglenn Dr.

Please bring this ad along to receive your free appetizer.
Each guest may only redeem this offer once. Not valid with other offers. Expires 12/31/13.

Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living	What Makes ElderCaring Different?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BathingLiftingPersonal Care & HygieneDressingTransferring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimumAll caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistantsThe owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needsAll caregivers are fluent in EnglishPersonal choice in selection of every caregiverLicensed, Bonded, Insured24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week
Support Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CompanionshipMeal PreparationMedication ReminderPhysical TherapyLight HousekeepingTransportation to Appointments	



MD • Call 301-949-0060
www.eldercaring2.com

VA • Call 703-956-3564
www.eldercaringofnova.com

Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Garrett Park Film Society

The schedule for next year’s films has been set. Join the Film Society and meet your friends and neighbors at the Town Hall to see these great films!

2014 Series

January 17: *Searching for Sugar Man* (Sweden/UK, 2012, documentary, PG-13). Two South Africans set out to find Rodriguez, a Detroit folk-singer who released two unsuccessful albums in the 1970’s that became huge hits in South Africa in the 90’s. A journey of discovery. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary of 2012.

February 14: *Amélie* (France, 2001, comedy/romance, R). The film that introduced Audrey Tautou to American audiences. The whimsical tale of a shy waitress who decides to change for the better the lives of those she meets.

March 14: *Monsoon Wedding* (India/USA et al, 2001, comedy/musical, R). A blend of Hollywood and Bollywood. The arranged marriage of a modern young Indian couple brings together family from around the world. And they pack a lot of emotional baggage.

April 11: *Unfaithfully Yours* (USA, 1948, comedy/romance). Directed by Preston Sturges, starring Rex Harrison. While conducting a symphony orchestra, the famous Sir Alfred de Carter

mentally acts out various scenarios for dealing with his wife’s suspected infidelity.

June 13: *Sita Sings the Blues* (USA, 2008, animation, PG). Written, directed, produced and animated by artist Nina Paley, this is animation for adults. The film tells two parallel tales of the relationship between men and women. One is based on the Indian epic poem, the Ramayana, with the goddess Sita singing 1920’s jazz tunes, and the other tale is about Paley’s own life.

September 19: *Today’s Special* (USA, 2009, comedy, R). Samir, an aspiring French chef, must take over his family’s failing restaurant, Tandoori Palace, the place he has been trying to escape his whole life. Then he meets Akbar, a gourmet chef and taxi driver, among other things. A movie for foodies.

October 24: *Incendies* (Canada, in French and English, 2010, drama, R). When their mother dies, a pair of twins is sent on a quest to the Middle East to find their father, whom they thought was dead, and a brother, whom they didn’t know they had.

November 14: *Somm* (USA, 2013, documentary). Four men try to pass the massively intimidating Master Sommelier Exam. An occasion for a wine tasting?

Garrett Park Film Society, 2014 Series

Yes! I want to be a member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Send notices to (check one) e-mail ____ U.S. post ____ both ____

Check the level of membership you want. All levels include admission to all films and coupons that can be used for soft drinks, popcorn, and nuts (when available). Higher memberships receive more coupons.

Make check payable to “Garrett Park Film Society” or “GPFS.”

Mail form and check to Suzanne Grefsheim, GPFS Treasurer, Box 175, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

- [] **Gaffer, Single** \$30 (5 coupons)
- [] **Gaffer, Family** \$50 (10 coupons)
- [] **Screenwriter** \$100 (20 coupons)
- [] **Film Sponsor** \$250 (20 coupons; reserved front row seats for sponsored film; acknowledgement of your support)
- [] **Director** \$300 (20 coupons; one glass of wine or beer per film)
- [] **Producer** \$500 (20 coupons; free dinner for two for each film shown in 2014)

- ♪ The current *e-Bugle* is available online the Monday after the Town Council meeting. You can find it on the town Web site, www.garrettpark-md.gov. (The printed *Bugle* is in the Post Office later: the subsequent Friday.)
- ♪ Garrett Park youngsters who want to earn money this year should sign up for the baby-sitting and snow-shovelling list. Call the Town Office (301-933-7488) and leave your name, age, and what you are willing to do. Maybe we'll even have snow this year, if we don't have a heat wave!
- ♪ Did you see it? The side of a Metro bus had a picture of Harry Gordon and daughter Caitlin touting the pluses of having surgery at Washington Adventist Hospital. He had his operation last February, and needless to say, it was a success. Hope the ad helped pay for it!
- ♪ Tim Derstine, of our Saturday farmer's market, will be coming here occasionally until Christmas, and then every other week from January to March. He suggests e-mailing him (haresvalley@pcfreemail.com) to find out what he will be bringing and to submit an order.
- ♪ From the PO: The cutoff dates for mailing items in time to get to their destination for the holidays are as follows: First Class, December 20; Priority, December 21; Priority Express, December 23. Standard mail should be turned in by December 14 to get to its destination. You can see the schedule for military and international mail at the Post Office.

Start the Holidays in Song

We'll supply the music—you supply the voices for the 31st annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest, to be held in the Town Hall on Friday, December 13, at 7:30 pm. The songs will include a mixture of sacred and secular music. The first half will be geared towards the children, so that after refreshments the younger participants can leave, and the serious singers can continue with some harder music in four-part harmony. Doug Mader will lead all the sweet sounding voices that will open the holiday season in rousing song. If possible, please bring some nibbles, sweet or salty, for everyone to munch on at intermission. Liquid libations (non-alcoholic) will be provided.

Mary Moyer

Holy Cross Award

On September 24 it was announced that Holy Cross Elementary School is one of three schools in the Archdiocese to be awarded the designation of a Blue Ribbon School. This indicates that the school ranks high in academic achievement and is among the most successful schools in the nation. Holy Cross is one of the 50 private schools to receive this recognition.

Santa's Visit

Santa is coming to the Town Hall on Saturday, December 14! Your little one will enjoy singing holiday favorites with George Oakley from 2 to 2:45 pm. Santa arrives at 2:45 pm to visit—come early to share your list! If you would like to help or provide snacks, please contact Jean Horan or Lori Conlan. (This event is brought to you, as always, by the Women's Club.)

Art at Penn Place

In December, Art at Penn Place showcases the work of Ellen Hill. The display runs from December 2 to January 4. Ellen writes:

"I work with wood because it has a warmth and history that it carries with it, and I like that it comes out of the ground and has a natural tactile energy. In creating my work, I respond to the physical materials involved, using different media for their individual strengths and their combined expressive power. The chickadee I showed in the group show came from a series of my paintings featuring backyard birds that are found in woodsy areas throughout the mid-Atlantic region."

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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Opposed to Sidewalk Plan

I have served twice on the Garrett Park Town Council, and am pleased to say that during that time I proposed, and we approved, a decrease in the posted town speed limit to 20 mph. I am committed to safety and maintaining the pleasant, rural feel of our town. The Town Council appears to be set on a course that isn't likely to increase safety and will diminish the rural feel so many enjoy. Why is this happening?

The October 14 meeting of the Town Council has on record the statement by our Mayor that a \$561,000 grant he and others applied to the State of Maryland for Safe Routes to School has "nothing to do with safety," and that the money would be used to add "an amenity to the town." This alone is sufficient for the town to reject this award. Given that the Mayor says safety is not an issue, why are sidewalks, curbs, and much more being proposed along Kenilworth and Oxford streets? The grant was submitted in January 2013 without prior town discussion, and only briefly mentioned at a January Town Council meeting. The application could have been made far more public so we could have discussed and prepared responses. Our Mayor makes it sound like we had ample time for a response, but we didn't. Public involvement started only September 23, and completed October 14, only 21 days apart. Still there were strong responses in the narrow time period.

At the first Town Council meeting, people voiced support for the project. But by the second, October 14 meeting, word got out, and speaker after speaker from a standing-room-only session voiced opposition to the additions of sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons; removing parking pads; removing trees; decreasing natural ground coverage and hampering rain run-off; moving telephone poles; increasing the numbers of cars parked on narrowing streets; increasing personal and town maintenance costs; risk of liability for homeowners; and cost of surveying each property to see if this project is even feasible. If it is not fea-

sible, the surely expensive and probably contentious surveys will be paid for by the town, not by the grant.

But the Town Council ignored these admonitions, and voted to move ahead with the grant. A large group of residents left the meeting feeling ignored by those elected to represent us. Please read the resolution the Council approved after hearing our comments, to "make all reasonable efforts to keep the Town residents informed," to "solicit public input," of which "this letter is part of that process," and to establish a "Sidewalks Citizens Advisory Committee." This committee has already been appointed by the Mayor, and reflects his choosing of constituents that sounds like, but will not be, representative of the 60 or more homeowners directly affected by the project. In maneuvering style, a single "opponent" to the plan is included, but he is a token who can be easily overruled, especially since a "proponent" is there to neutralize that view. The committee members are there "to assist the Town in implementing the project." Basically, it reads "we are going to do this, the rest of you, stand back." Rather, as almost everyone I've spoken to believes, the implementation should include all directly affected homeowners in the decision process, as should elderly residents and those with children who walk these streets. I believe that impactful issues with such deeply divided views are not worth pursuing, and that we should focus on the many tasks with clear need and broad support.

One-fourth of the annual "Safe Routes to School" money for Maryland went to Garrett Park. I wonder how this came to be, and how many poorer areas with heavy traffic will now go without needed sidewalks or sidewalk repairs. Town government directed by the few takes our focus off important issues, and wastes money. The unfortunate issue of sidewalks for "safe routes to school" is a test case we can and must reject.

Tony Altar



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December 14, 2013 - 2 PM.
Music with George Oakley
Santa arrives at 2:45 P.M.
Hot Chocolate and cookies
Come tell Santa what you want